

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

The following message was received from his excellency, the Governor:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE,  
AUSTIN, TEXAS, Feb. 27, 1893.

To the House of Representatives, Twenty-third Legislature of Texas:

Regretfully I must return to your honorable body, with my disapproval, substitute House bill No. 39, proposing to create a new judicial district for McLennan county. Had the bill made that county a separate district by detaching Falls and adding it to one of the adjoining districts, there could be no objection urged to it on the ground of extravagance or public policy. McLennan and Falls now comprise the Nineteenth judicial district but they are made by this bill the Fifty-fourth district, and an additional district is made of McLennan to be called the Nineteenth judicial district.

At this time the State is burdened with too many judicial districts. A less number would be sufficient if the work of the judges could be fairly distributed among them. The services and duties of some judges are onerous, while on others the burdens are very light. Indisputable facts can be had showing that many of these judges can easily do the work of from one to three more counties in addition to those now forming their districts. Many of them finish their work and have three or four months' vacation, while some have hard work to do for eleven months of the year, and then are behind with their dockets. This unjust inequality is patent and needs correction, but the creation of new districts is certainly not the remedy. The State needs redistricting. Until this can be done it is candidly submitted that it will be best for public interests to detach counties from the overburdened districts, and add them to those more favorably situated.

By adding Falls county to some of the adjoining districts, several of which can easily accept it, McLennan county can remain to itself an independent district, and thus the creation of more offices and a new district be avoided without public detriment.

Respectfully, J. S. HOGG,  
Governor of Texas.